

Hamilton Field, Warehouse Type E
(Facility No. 305, Quartermaster's
Oil Warehouse)
2nd Street between Escolta and Hangar Avenues
Novato
Marin County
California

HABS No. CA-2398-AO

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PHOTOGRAPHS

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Buildings Survey
National Park Service
Department of the Interior
San Francisco, California

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

HAMILTON FIELD Warehouse Type E (Quartermaster's Oil Warehouse, Facility No. 305)

HABS No. CA-2398-AO

Location: Hamilton Army Air Field
Novato, Marin County, California
Warehouse Type E (Quartermaster's Oil Warehouse)
Facility No. 305 (2nd Street between Escolta and Hangar Avenues)

U.S.G.S.: Novato, CA. Quadrangle (7.5' series), 1954 (revised 1980)
Petaluma Point, CA. Quadrangle (7.5' series), 1959 (revised 1980)
UTM Coordinates: Zone 10; A: 542100/4213620; B: 544720/4212220;
C: 542760/4210650; D: 541040/4212600

Significance:

The oil warehouse is the only remaining feature of what was originally the base fueling island. This area also contained a smaller concrete fueling station and a small island with two fueling pumps. The surrounding area contained underground tanks and pits for storage of fuels and waste oil. The building is significant as an example of the application of an important architectural trend (Spanish Colonial Revival) adapted to reflect California's mission heritage in a dramatic departure from traditional military architecture.

See narrative for Hamilton Field (HABS No. CA-2398) for a comprehensive Statement of Significance and individual report HABS No. CA-2398-A for a condensed Statement of Significance.

Description:

This fuel storage facility is a plain, rectangular concrete and stucco structure with an end gable roof supported by decorative exposed rafters. The roof is sheathed with Mission tile and has a tile ridge line. Three circular pipe vents arranged in a triangular shape vent the gable end. The building sits on a four-inch high concrete foundation. The west side of the building has an original metal pedestrian door with brass thumb latch hardware. A sign on this door identifies this building as "Fuels Quality Control and Inspection Section."

The interior of this building has eight-inch-square vinyl asphalt tile covering the concrete slab floor. A sink and counters are located along the walls. Light is provided by single incandescent bulb fixtures covered with a metal hood suspended on chains from the ceiling. Ducts from a vent system are present along the walls and ceiling. A solid wall separates this section from a frame addition attached on the northeast side of the structure.

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The attached frame building has a low-pitched composition gable roof and has four-foot by eight-foot plywood sheet siding. Roof rafters are exposed under the eaves. This section is accessed through a solid-core wood door with exposed strap hinges.

Historical Context:

See narrative for Hamilton Field (HABS No. CA-2398) and Section B in report HABS No. CA-2398-F.

The line drawn sketches were drafted on site in 1994 by Keith Syda, scanned into a computer and drawn by Christopher MacDonald in 1995, and corrected and finalized by Claire Warshaw in 1996 (all PAR Environmental Services, Inc. staff).

The southwest half of this building was built in 1939 following plans designed by Nurse's staff. Originally, this building served as a storage warehouse for oils needed by the Quartermaster's unit. By 1942 the building was used as the Quartermaster's gas station. A concrete island adjacent to the building on the northwest side contained a bank of gasoline pumps, now removed. The frame addition was attached during the war years, as the number of vehicles on base that needed fueling increased. By 1966 the building was used as a technical fuels testing facility and lab, a function it maintained until base closure in 1974.

Sources:

See narrative for Hamilton Field (HABS No. CA-2398) and Section B in report HABS No. CA-2398-F.

Project Information:

Hamilton Army Air Field is owned by various federal entities including the Department of the Navy, Department of the Army, United States Coast Guard, and General Services Administration (GSA). The Army/GSA parcels are being excessed and sold to private developers. The Navy property is included in Base Closure and Realignment actions.

As part of the Army's undertaking, it has been determined in consultation with the California Office of Historic Preservation (OHP) that the excess sale will have an affect on properties at the air field, and that these properties are components of a district that is eligible for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places. Based on consultation with the OHP and the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation, pursuant to 36 CFR part 800, regulations implementing Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (16 U.S.C. 470f), a

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Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) was entered into by the interested parties in March 1994. The agreement stipulated that prior to excess sale the Army must contact the HABS/HAER division at the Western Regional Office of the National Park Service, San Francisco, California, to determine the appropriate level and kind of recordation for the subject properties. The MOA further stipulated that copies of the documentation be made available to the OHP and appropriate local archives designated by the OHP. This recordation has been prepared in order to meet those stipulations.

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Date prepared: July 1995

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Date of photographs: April 1993

